

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A method for processing one or more mail pieces, comprising:

receiving a postage amount entered by a user, said postage amount to be applied to said one or more mail pieces;

searching stored information including one or more rate tables for one or more classes of service having a postage rate that matches said postage amount;

if no class of service having a postage rate that matches said postage amount is found, displaying an error message;

if one or more classes of service having a postage rate that matches said postage amount is found, displaying said found one or more classes of service to said user;

receiving a selected class of service, said selected class of service being selected by said user from said displayed one or more classes of service;

applying said postage amount to said one or more mail pieces; and

storing transaction information for each of said one or more mail pieces, said transaction information including said postage amount and said selected class of service.

2. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said displayed one or more classes of service each have a weight that corresponds to said postage amount, said transaction information further including said weight for said selected class of service.

3. (Original) A method according to claim 2, said displaying step further comprising displaying each of said weights along with said one or more classes of service.

4. (Original) A method according to claim 2, wherein said selected class of service and said weight for said selected class of service are applied to said one or more mail pieces.

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein after said postage amount is received, said method further comprises prompting said user to indicate a desire to associate said postage amount with one of said one or more classes of service, and proceeding to said searching step only if said user provides an indication of said desire.

6. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said selected class of service is applied to said one or more mail pieces.

7. (Original) A method according to claim 1, said one or more mail pieces comprising a batch of mail pieces.

8. (Previously Presented) A mail processing system, comprising:

a metering/printing module for applying postage values to one or more mail pieces;

a display;

a central processing unit controlling operation of said metering/printing module and said display; and

a memory storing information including one or more rate tables and software executable by said central processing unit, said software including instructions for:

(a) receiving a postage amount entered by a user, said postage amount to be applied to said one or more mail pieces;

(b) searching said information for one or more classes of service having a postage rate that matches said postage amount;

(c) if no class of service having a postage rate that matches said postage amount is found, displaying an error message;

(d) if one or more classes of service having a postage rate that matches said postage amount is found, displaying said found one or more classes of service on said display;

(e) receiving a selected class of service, said selected class of service being chosen by said user from said displayed one or more classes of service;

(f) causing said metering/printing module to apply said postage amount to one of said one or more mail pieces or a tape to be applied to said one or more mail pieces; and

(g) storing transaction information for each of said one or more mail pieces, said transaction information including said postage amount and said selected class of service.

9. (Previously Presented) A mail processing system according to claim 8, wherein said displayed one or more classes of service each have a weight that corresponds to said postage amount, said transaction information further including said weight for said selected class of service.

10. (Original) A mail processing system according to claim 9, said instructions for displaying further comprising instructions for displaying each of said weights along with said one or more classes of service.

11. (Original) A mail processing system according to claim 8, said one or more mail pieces comprising a batch of mail pieces.

12. (Currently Amended) A mail processing system according to claim 8, said software further including instructions for after receiving said postage amount, prompting said user to indicate a desire to associate said postage amount with one of said one or more classes of service, said central processing unit executing instructions (b) through (g) only if said user provides ~~an~~ an indication of said desire.

13. (Original) A mail processing system according to claim 8, further comprising an input device for enabling said user to enter said postage amount and choose said selected class of service.

14. (Original) A mail processing system according to claim 8, said instructions for causing further comprising instructions for causing said metering/printing module to apply said selected class of service to one of said one or more mail pieces or a tape to be applied to said one or more mail pieces.

15. (Original) A mail processing system according to claim 9, said instructions for causing further comprising instructions for causing said metering/printing module to apply said selected class of service and said weight for said selected class of service to one of said one or more mail pieces or a tape to be applied to said one or more mail pieces.